

The Voice  
of the  
Industry

# Air Conditioning & REFRIGERATION



# NEWS

BULLETIN  
EDITION  
Oct. 16, 1944

\$4 per Year; 2 Years for \$7  
Single Copy 20 Cents

Published Every Monday by Business News Pub. Co.  
5229 Cass Ave., Detroit 2, Mich.

Vol. 43, No. 7, Serial No. 813  
Member: ABB, Inc. AABC

## WPB URGED TO DROP MAJORITY OF CONTROLS AFTER DEFEAT OF GERMANY

OCT 16 1944

Revoking of 350 of the 500 WPB orders and regulations now in effect when Germany is defeated has been recommended by the special task committee appointed to work out details for WPB's V-E Day plans, announces J. A. Krug, chairman of WPB. The remaining 150 orders, which the committee thinks must be retained until Japan is knocked out, should be greatly simplified, however, it was said.

Present preference rating structure should likewise be simplified by use of a single, fully extendable MM rating band reserved for direct military requirements, the committee believes. The AAA rating should be continued in its present form, though, to break military bottlenecks and ease serious civilian emergencies, according to the report.

Steel, copper, and aluminum mills and warehouses after V-E Day should be authorized to accept orders and make deliveries without CMP "tickets," suggests the committee, which also, while recommending that sufficient reporting of industrial information be maintained during the war, strongly opposes any action "that might hamper private enterprise or ingenuity, either by restricting members of an industry to historical pattern of business or by preventing entry of newcomers."

## CONTINUANCE OF CONTROLS OVER MOTOR PRODUCTION URGED

Maintenance of present WPB controls on commercial-type motors, even after victory in Europe is assured, in order to distribute properly the supply of motors among all companies manufacturing civilian items such as refrigerators, washing machines, and vacuum cleaners, was recommended at a recent meeting of the Fractional Horsepower Motor Labor Advisory Committee.

Advance notice of pending cutbacks, at least 30 days before the effective date of any employee lay-offs, should be furnished to labor organizations in the motor manufacturing plants involved, members emphasized. Such warnings would provide national labor organizations with sufficient time to soften the blow to employees and assist in re-channeling labor to other essential wartime or civilian activities, they said. However, cutback information is not always available in advance, particularly since motors are low on the sub-contractor scale, WPB officials pointed out.

The proposal of WPB's General Industrial Equipment Division that all companies normally engaged in manufacturing commercial-type alternating current motors be the first to be cut back in special motors used by the armed forces was endorsed by the labor committee.

This policy would allow increased production of AC motors by all manufacturers, resulting in a reduction of the present heavy backlog, it was explained. The industry would also be in a better position to supply the requirements for appliance production when their manufacture is again permitted, WPB officials indicated.

Unfilled orders for commercial-type AC motors amount to 10.3 months at current production level, officials of the General Industrial Equipment Division reported. All requirements for military-type motors are being met at present despite the over-all motor backlog of 8.6 months at current production levels.

Commercial-type AC motor production is expected to increase 90 percent from four to nine months after "V-E" Day, Government officials declared.

## 116,800 ICE BOXES AUTHORIZED BY WPB FOR FOURTH QUARTER

Seventeen manufacturers of domestic ice boxes have been given quotas totaling 116,800 units for production in the fourth quarter, the WPB has announced. Quota for the third quarter this year totaled 128,175.

### STOKER MANUFACTURERS CAN APPLY TO MAKE DOMESTIC MODELS

Stoker manufacturers may now apply for permission to produce the 37,500 domestic type stokers for which material was recently authorized, WPB announced Oct. 9. Order L-75 (Coal Stokers) was amended to implement the authorization of material.

The amended order provides that any manufacturer who wishes to produce coal stokers must apply for authorization by letter to the nearest WPB field office. Information about proposed production in units per quarter based on feeding capacities should be included in the letter.

Where the applicant will need controlled materials in order to produce the equipment, the letter should be accompanied by an application on Form CMP-4B for the controlled materials. If the application is approved the manufacturer will receive authorization to produce on Form GA-1850 from WPB.

No control over distribution of coal stokers will be maintained by WPB. However, each manufacturer will be expected to distribute his production through his normal distribution channels, taking into consideration shipments to areas during 1941, immigration of workers to certain areas, and such other factors as will provide equitable distribution to meet essential needs, officials said.

Actual installation of coal stokers is controlled by WPB under its construction order, L-41, WPB officials pointed out. That order permits installation of stokers without WPB approval, however, if the installation results in a saving of coal and if coal was formerly used as a fuel. Installation cannot cost over \$5,000 and the total cost of the job including cost of the equipment must not exceed \$25,000.

New installations of coal stokers which necessitate a change in fuel still require WPB approval, however. In such cases, applicants desiring permission to install a stoker in a home should apply on Form WPB-2896 at their nearest Federal Housing Administration Field Office.

Applications for permission to make commercial or industrial installations should be filed with WPB on Form WPB-617.

### UNION ASKS START OF CIVILIAN PRODUCTION AS CUTBACKS REDUCE EMPLOYMENT AT MAYTAG COMPANY

Fearing that Newton, Iowa, might be reduced soon to the status of an industrial "ghost town" because of cutbacks in war production at Maytag Mfg. Co., the C.I.O. Electrical Workers' Union local has appealed to WPB and WMC to permit Maytag to start immediate production of peacetime products, principally washers and ironers.

From a peak employment of more than 3,100 war workers, successive reductions in the factory force due to cutbacks have cut the rolls to 1,800.

Officials of the Maytag company have applied to WPB and WMC under the "spot authorization" order for permission to start producing component parts for washers.

### BAILLIE TO LEAVE DETROIT LUBRICATOR TO HEAD AMERICAN GAS MACHINE CO.

J. W. Baillie, secretary-treasurer of the Detroit Lubricator Co., will resign Dec. 1 to become active president of the American Gas Machine Co. at Albert Lea, Minn., announces C. H. Hodges, president of Detroit Lubricator. Mr. Baillie has been on the board of directors of the American company for the past three years.

### A.S.H.V.E. TO MEET IN BOSTON JANUARY 22-24

American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers will hold its 51st annual meeting at the Hotel Statler in Boston Jan. 22 to 24. Members of the Massachusetts chapter will be hosts, with Earl G. Carrier serving as general chairman of the committee on arrangements. Other chairmen include James Holt, David Archer, W. T. Jones, G. B. Gerrish, J. W. Brinton, F. R. Ellis, A. C. Bartlett, C. M. F. Peterson, A. L. Hesselschwerdt, Jr., and P. A. Croney.

#### DETROIT CONTRACTORS TO HEAR PROPOSALS OF C.E.D. OFFICIALS

Refrigeration Contractors Association of Detroit has arranged for an open meeting to be held at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Detroit Edison Co. auditorium, whereby all refrigeration servicing and contracting companies in the Detroit area can hear of the plans of the Committee For Economic Development for small businesses in the postwar era.

Four top C.E.D. officials for the Michigan and Detroit areas will be on hand to discuss what plans small businessmen can make to prepare themselves for postwar problems. Also speaking at this meeting will be H. Carleton Havens, chief of the regional office of the OCR.

#### NO GREAT CHANGE FOR REFRIGERATION FIELD IN SILICA GEL ORDER

The recently issued Schedule 53 to General Allocation Order M-300 covering silica gel (dessiccant grade) will not work a hardship on the refrigeration industry in their efforts to obtain supplies of silica gel for dehydration of refrigerants, declares R. D. Goodall of Davison Chemical Corp.

Paragraph "B" of the Schedule permits the delivery by a producer and the acceptance by customers of 550 pounds per month of silica gel without the necessity of filing customer application Form WPB 2945.

A total of 550 pounds are available to each customer each month without the necessity of following the procedures outlined in Schedule 53. This small order exemption was included in the order to facilitate delivery of refrigeration grade silica gel for refrigeration work without the necessity of involved paper work.

Refrigeration supply jobbers requesting silica gel should continue to place orders not exceeding 550 pounds as they have in the past.

#### PARTS JOBBERS WILL MEET NOV. 20-22 IN CHICAGO

Annual meeting of the National Refrigeration Supply Jobbers Association will be held Nov. 20, 21, and 22 at the Edgewater Beach hotel in Chicago.

The meeting was called after a referendum vote of the membership went 5 to 1 in favor of holding a meeting this fall.

#### WPB OFFICIAL CLEARS UP QUESTION OF RESTRICTIONS ON WATER COOLER PRODUCTION

The question of just how far the recent amendment to Schedule I of Order L-126 goes in removing restrictions on water cooler production has been cleared up in a recent statement by F. B. Millham, Deputy Chief, Special Equipment Branch, General Industrial Equipment Division, WPB, in which he states:

"The amendment to Schedule I of Order L-126, dated Sept. 5, 1944, would remove restrictions on the types and sizes of drinking water coolers that may be produced.

"However, Order L-38 does prohibit the production of any non-mechanical water coolers, bottle type water coolers, and pressure type coolers less than five gallons per hour capacity. For coolers of a capacity of five gallons per hour or larger in the mechanical pressure type or cafeteria type, there is no restriction on the size or style of cooler that may be produced.

"If it is remembered that Order L-126 is primarily a manufacturers specification order whereas Order L-38 restricts production and distribution, there should be no problem in interpreting the meaning of the intent of these two orders."

#### ROBERT S. AHRENS, SEEGER VICE PRESIDENT, DIES AFTER FALL

Robert S. Ahrens, vice president in charge of engineering for Seeger Refrigerator Co., St. Paul, Minn., died recently of injuries received a few days earlier in a fall from a ladder. A graduate of Cincinnati Tech, Mr. Ahrens had been with Seeger for 25 years. Previously he worked for King Machine Tool Co. and Dayton Engineering Laboratories. He was a member of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers.



#### AIR SHIPPING OF PERISHABLES STILL FAR TOO COSTLY

Will air shipping of fresh fruits and vegetables win a large place in the postwar food distribution picture? The question is one of importance to the refrigeration industry, for it might have a bearing on the extent of the growth of the quick-frozen foods industry, and the field of refrigerated transport.

Studies made so far seem to indicate that fruits and vegetables transport by air are all right—but that one big question is that of costs per ton-mile (cost of shipping one ton of a commodity a distance of one air mile).

One study made at Wayne University in Detroit indicates that a 15-cent ton-mile rate would have to be attained before any type of produce would be available for air shipment.

Current rates are three to four times the "necessary" 15-cent rate.

However, even at 15 cents a ton-mile only a few commodities would be candidates for air shipment. These would include tomatoes and berries, particularly strawberries.

Rates would have to get down to 10 cents a ton-mile before it would be feasible to ship most of the other common vegetables, and down to 7 cents and 5 cents for others. The rate would also have to pare down to the 7 cents rate for most other fruits.

Advantages that are being claimed for air transportation of foods are (1) fruits and vegetables can be offered for sale in a matter of a few hours after picking; (2) less wastage than surface-transported produce; (3) longer "in-season" periods for many types of produce.

#### APEX BORROWS \$5,000,000 FOR RECONVERSION

Apex Electrical Mfg. Co. of Cleveland has completed negotiations for an Army-sponsored VT loan for \$5 million to finance war activities of the company and thus release Apex private capital for eventual plant reconversion, according to C. G. Frantz, president.

Under the WPB ruling which permits experimental model work, Apex is at present proceeding with development of an automatic washer design begun several years ago, it was announced.

#### ICE BOX PRODUCERS MAY ENTER LOW-TEMPERATURE CABINET FIELD

Several ice box manufacturers are making plans to enter the low-temperature cabinet field after the war, it was learned during the recent annual Chicago convention of the National Association of Ice Refrigerator Manufacturers. Extensive use of plastics in postwar ice box manufacture is also contemplated, association members revealed.

T. J. Beck, general assistant vice president of City Ice & Fuel Co., Chicago, and president of Ice Cooling Appliance Corp., Morrison, Ill., was re-elected to his third term as president of the manufacturers group.

#### J. A. SULLIVAN HEADS APPLIANCE SALES FOR GENERAL MILLS

J. A. Sullivan, formerly manager of small appliances in the merchandising division of Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co., has been appointed home appliance sales manager for General Mills, announces Harry A. Bullis, president.

Mr. Sullivan until recently was a lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve, being commissioned in November, 1942. Since February, 1943, he served in the production division of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics.

#### BOSTON BRANCH REOPENED BY MELCHIOR, ARMSTRONG, DESSAU

Boston branch of the Melchior, Armstrong, Dessau Co., refrigeration and air conditioning jobber was reopened Oct. 9 at 618 Commonwealth Ave., according to K. L. Brandt, sales manager. George Yeager, who has been with the company for several years, will manage the Boston branch and direct the firm's activities in the New England territory.